

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Monthly Meeting, April 13, 7:30 PM, Annex, Town Hall

Present: Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, John Ellis, Sally Naish, Eric Ammondson, Becky Edmondson, David Rines (visitor), Oakes Plimpton (visitor)

1. Approve March meeting minutes

One correction made: Change section 5 to say Draft 7 of bylaw. E. Burden moved to accept, John E. seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

2. EcoFest, March 19 – Topics raised. No discussion

3. DPW Tree Department Update (Mike R.)

Mike Rademacher not present for discussion, so no news re: hiring a tree warden or spring tree planting. We will discuss Mike R.'s draft document on tree planting guidelines and fees at the May meeting.

Discussed Russ Cohen's interest in assisting MRWA with tree planting at the Arlington Heights water tower. Sally and Eliza made a visit and sent recommendations to Mike R.

At Mike R.'s request, Sally N. and Eliza B. visited the field and sent Mike R recommendations on locations for planting trees to shade the Scannell Field ballpark and suitable species, but recommended that these recommendations be cleared by Parks and Rec. We discussed using MacEachern funds to plant trees at Scannell Field .

Action: Eliza B. to forward to the group her email to Mike RE the Scannell Field recommendations.

4. Tree Inventory – Open Tree Map platform (John E.)

The May 19 training with a DCR expert will occur on May 19; place and time to be announced later. There will also be online training for using the Open Tree app for the Pilot Tree Inventory along Plow Route 12. We will invite our Google Group and other town groups such as the Arlington Garden Club and Sustainable Arlington.

Action: John E. to invite the ATC Google Group and Becky E. to invite members of the Menotomy Gardeners group to attend the May 19 training session.

5. Tree Planting Initiative. Handout delivery through town (John E.)

John E. notified ATC members and the ATC Google Group that they could pick up flyers for the initiative at his office and handed out copies of flyers to the meeting. Participants have selected routes to leaflet on the Google map that John E. created. John

Action: Recommended that John E. try to identify private streets on the Google Map because the town won't plant on them.

6. Bylaw (Susan S.) – update

Town Selectmen asked us to work with developers to make sure that the bylaw will not impose undue burdens. Discussions with developers led to a complete revision of the bylaw (now draft 10): replacement trees only need to mature to 50 ft. instead of matching the lost tree's DBH; developers will pay a flat fee per tree removed; the tree plan does not have to be made by a certified arborist; trees in setback don't need to be protected during development. Following changes the Selectmen voted unanimously to support the draft bylaw.

Action: (1) John E. and Mary Ellen A. to write a flyer urging support for the bylaw, based on the PowerPoint presentation that will be used at Town Meeting; (2) Mary Ellen to do the PowerPoint presentation at Town Meeting.

7. Publicity/Outreach

Present Building Inspector with a handout re: Shade Tree Law: No discussion.

FB/Website/Email: No discussion.

Google Groups: See sections 4 and 5.

Town Meeting handout of ATC initiatives: See section 6.

8. Membership, Committee Roles, Responsibilities and Tenure

Co-Chairs : No discussion.

9. New Business

Allegations of trees dying in town center from gas leaks: Leaks may harm replanting plans for Mass. Ave.

Action: Susan S. to investigate and give Mike R. information on gas company's plans to investigate and fix leaks.

10. Correspondence received:

Janet Wilder, 26 Peck Ave., interested in being a tree steward this year

Jane Conner, Brunswick Road (MWRA concern): Becky E. reports she is satisfied with advice from ATC members and neighbors on what tree to ask MRWA to plant.

Marianne Curren, 61 Hillsdale Road (MWRA concern): Eliza B. suggested she ask MRWA to plant a small tree like a Japanese lilac or other small tree that will fit under the wires in front of her house.

Oakes Plimpton, town resident, suggests a town tree ID. labeling project: Gave him suggestions such as involving school art class students or Boy Scouts. Recommended he read the Heritage Tree portion of ATC website and send us info on trees that might qualify.

Next meeting: Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month. May 11.